

TRY IT AT *Work*

A resource to reflect on
professionalism and leadership



1 Reflect on how you support colleagues and early childhood education students in your practice

- **How well do you know your colleagues and the early childhood education students you work with?** What are their interests and strengths? What are their levels of education, training or experience? What skills are they working on?
- **Do you demonstrate respect and build trust?** Are you respectful and fair? Do you provide the appropriate level of supervision, direction and guidance? What do your colleagues and early childhood education students want to learn from you? What can you learn from them?
- **What strategies do you use to support their professional growth?** What learning opportunities do you provide them? What do you say to support them? What do you do to guide them?
- **What else do you need to learn in order to support your colleagues and early childhood education students?** Are you engaged in professional learning activities designed to help you support adult learners?

2 Observe the colleagues and early childhood education students under your professional supervision

Pay attention and make notes of a number of practice areas, including but not limited to:

- **Relationships.** What are their interactions with children and families like?
- **Learning environment.** Do they understand how to promote well-being and safety?
- **Curriculum and pedagogy.** Do they work with children and colleagues to support a child-centred and play-based curriculum?
- **Professionalism and leadership.** Do they model appropriate values and behaviours with children, families and colleagues?
- **Professional boundaries, confidentiality and duty to report.** Do they demonstrate an understanding of the importance of establishing professional boundaries and maintaining confidentiality? Are they aware of their duty to report?



3 Communicate, collaborate and create opportunities!

Reflecting on your role and observing your colleagues and early childhood education students in practice are important aspects of being a role model, professional and leader.

It is also important to remember that you have an opportunity to learn from those under your professional supervision!

With your colleagues and early childhood education students, brainstorm ways to address the following questions:

- Can we improve our communication approaches?
- Are there areas of practice and learning can we collaborate on?
- What are some appropriate learning and leadership opportunities?